

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-07

NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO AMEMBASSY LISBON

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USMISSION NATO

SECDEF WASHDC

JCS WASHDC

CNO WASHDC

CINCUSNAVEUR

USNMR SHAPE BRUSSELS

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE

CINCLANT NORFOLK VA

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 5539

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, PO, NO

SUBJECT: PORTUGUESE NAVY MODERNIZATION

REFS: (A) LISBON 6816, (B) USNATO 5470

1. EMBASSY BELIEVES IDEA OF NORWEGIAN

PARTICIPATION IN EFFORT TO UPGRADE PORTUGUESE DEALEY CLASS
FRIGATES MAY HAVE MERIT.

WE BELIEVE THERE ARE SEVERAL IMPORTANT SOCIAL AND MILITARY
SIMILARITIES BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES WHICH LEND THEMSELVES
WELL TO SUCH COOPERATION. BOTH COUNTRIES, FOR EXAMPLE, HAVE
STRONG SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC TIES AND THE SIZE OF THEIR RESPECTIVE
ARMED FORCES IS MUCH THE SAME.

2. PROJECT MIGHT SERVE SEVERAL VALUABLE PURPOSES.

IT WOULD APPEAR TO US TO ASSIST IN REORIENTING INTEREST IN THE
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PORTUGUESE MILITARY ALLIANCE'S TOWARD NATO. FROM OUR PER-

SPECTIVE IN OSLO, IT COULD SERVE OUR OBJECTIVE OF GETTING GON MORE IMMEDIATELY INTERESTED IN NATO'S SOUTHERN FLANK AND WOULD HAVE THE SPECIFIC ADVANTAGE OF ENGAGING THE GON IN QUESTIONS OF THE SECURITY OF THE IBERIAN PENINSULA. THAT ULTIMATELY COULD LEAD THE GON TO TAKE A MORE FAVORABLE VIEW TOWARDS SPAIN'S POSSIBLE ROLE IN NATO.

3. WE AGREE WITH REFS A AND B CONCERNING NEED TO AWAIT RESULTS OF NAVY SURVEY TEAM BEFORE PROCEEDING WITH PROJECT, AND THEN TO WORK THROUGH THE ADHOC GROUP ON MILITARY ASSISTANCE IN THIS REGARD. CMDA OSLO IS SEEKING TO OBTAIN ADDITIONAL CONFIGURATION DATA REQUESTED BY SURVEY TEAM ON NORWEGIAN DEALEY CLASS FRIGATES.

4. ASSUMING THE SURVEY TEAM REPORT INDICATES IT IS FEASIBLE FOR NORWEGIANS TO ASSIST IN MODERNIZATION EFFORT BASED ON SHIP COMMONALITIES AND NORWEGIAN NAVY EXPERIENCE, AND THE ADHOC GROUP CONCURS, THEN WE BELIEVE THAT, IN RESPONSE TO A REQUEST FROM PORTUGAL, NATO OR US (WHICHEVER IS CONSIDERED APPROPRIATE), THE GON WOULD BE WILLING TO PROVIDE A NORWEGIAN NAVY INVESTIGATIVE TEAM TO VISIT PORTUGAL TO LOOK INTO POSSIBILITY OF CONDUCTING PROJECT. AT SAME TIME AS REQUEST IS MADE, WE SUGGEST EMBASSY OSLO BE INSTRUCTED APPROACH GON AT POLITICAL LEVEL SO AS TO REINFORCE REQUEST AND TO PROMOTE THE BROADER INTERESTS REFLECTED ABOVE.

5. IF USN SURVEY, HOWEVER, INDICATES NORWEGIAN NAVY ASSISTANCE OF PORTUGUESE NAVY IN MODERNIZATION EFFORT IS NOT FEASIBLE OR PARTICULARLY ADVANTAGEOUS, WE WOULD THEN WISH TO WORK WITH EMBASSY LISBON IN ATTEMPT TO DEVELOP SOME OTHER PROJECT TO PROMOTE THE SAME END.
ANDERS

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